

NSSA Executive Committee

Minutes of the conference phone call 11:00am ET, 09/08/04

(action items in bold red)

Present on the conference call:

Dave Belanger (DB)

Simon Billinge (SJB)

Rob Briber (RB)

Jim Jorgensen (JJ)

Susan Krueger (SK)

Greg Smith (GS)

Franz Trouw (FT)

Shenda Baker (SB)

Missing:

Agenda

1.) Accept minutes from 8/5/04 conference call

2.) IPNS proposal for ACNS 2006 (attached file to e-mail)

3.) Additional NSSA prizes

\$3K prize in soft matter science (bio-, polymers, complex fluids)

\$3K prize in hard matter (magnetism, diffraction, residual stress...

alternatively

\$3K best neutron science award (all fields

\$3K best young scientist neutron science award (all fields)

Form an Awards subcommittee from NSSA Exec Comm?

4.) ISI/Web of Science search on neutrons and impact in scientific literature (attached file to e-mail).

5.) ACNS 2004 NSF (and others) Report

6.) NSSA Affiliate membership with AIP

7.) Other Business

Discussions:

Accept minutes from 8/5/04 conference call

Accepted with the change that Cliff Shull should be Robert (Bob) Shull.

IPNS proposal for ACNS 2006 (attached file to e-mail)

RB, nice proposal from IPNS. Conference site has been identified, North Loop. RB requested information about room rates. Also raised a question about raising the contributions from the facilities. The proposal does not include funds from NSF (good) and does have a reasonable registration cost. JJ BES will be taking two consecutive 7.5% per year cuts. Also, NSSA has funds in the bank. It is unlikely that the facilities will buy into an increase. RB: what can we afford to put back? Registration could also be increased to \$300-\$325 and still be reasonable. SK: tours of facility should be in the agenda. DB: treasurer shouldn't be on the local organizing committee...its too much. Maybe for president too. RB: add one or two energetic younger scientists to the local committee. JJ: Program committee will be led from outside. RB: Consider placing an IPNS scientist on the local organizing committee. JJ should be there to provide institutional memory and leadership on topical issues, but he doesn't have the infrastructure to take care of organizational details. **RB will draft a response and distribute it to excom**

Additional NSSA prizes

\$3K prize in soft matter science (bio-, polymers, complex fluids)
\$3K prize in hard matter (magnetism, diffraction, residual stress...)

alternatively

\$3K best neutron science award (all fields)
\$3K best young scientist neutron science award (all fields)

Problem with sorting categories is that some things (catalysis/instrumentation) fall outside them. SJB: should keep categories science focused. JJ: prizes should feed into prizes of other societies. Prizes need to be sufficiently focused. FT: snappy title and good description is enough. SK: too focused is bad because it will exclude people. JJ: examine the objectives of the Society and then figure out how to accomplish them. DOE is concerned about the scientific impact of neutrons. E.g., what is the biggest impact neutrons have had in the last 3-years? How do we answer that? If we only have a few prizes, we should not focus. SK: need scoring criteria for deciding between CMP and soft physics. SJB: two prizes, one for single paper, one for body of work? **SJB/SK/JJ will work together to draft a proposal on this.**

Form an Awards subcommittee from NSSA Exec Comm?

ISI/Web of Science search on neutrons and impact in scientific literature (attached file to e-mail). RB: very useful thing. SB: Cost is high; can we know what we are getting for our 10K? SK: this is for our information. RB: one thing the society can do is to advertise the impact of neutrons. This information is necessary for us to know this. RB: \$16k is a lot, but I would like to have this information.

Citation discussion:

Long discussion. FT: ask ISI the questions we want the answer to, and see if they can tell us and what it costs. RB: formulate a couple of questions, let excom discuss it, then send it back.

ACNS 2004 NSF (and others) Report

Nothing to report on this. RB: will go back and work on it.

NSSA Affiliate membership with AIP

We can become an affiliate member of the AIP. It is free, get listed on their website. Other than this, not clear what the benefits are. SK: we may benefit because of the AIP infrastructure for lobbying etc.. RB will get more information.

Other Business

None

Call ended 12:30pm

Respectfully submitted, Simon Billinge, 9/9/04